



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

CECW-CO

APR 17 2006


MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUPPORT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Implementation of Automated Dredging Quality Assurance Monitoring

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will use automated dredging quality assurance monitoring in our navigation mission to provide much needed tools and metrics for improving our dredging program, including management of threatened and endangered species and overdepth dredging. Silent Inspector (SI) was developed under our Dredge Operations and Environmental Research Program (DOER) and tested for several years by a number of districts. The mission of the SI Program is to provide standardized Corps-wide technical support of dredging through automated tools and services and to evolve these capabilities to meet our growing needs.
2. The Engineering Research and Development Center (ERDC) will lead SI development in the Corps. ERDC has developed and matured SI technology and services for continuously monitoring Corps dredging operations using automated on-board dredge systems communicating to centralized data storage servers coupled with GIS technology. The Silent Inspector Program has demonstrated inspection cost savings at Mobile, New Orleans, and Portland Districts. Additionally, SI improves environmental sustainability of our dredge operations by building stakeholder confidence in our compliance efforts. Data from SI monitored dredging operations will flow into Dredging Operations Decision Support Software (DODSS), which will increase the alternatives for advancing dredging work. The Dredging Operations Decision Support Software will also improve estimation of scope and cost of dredging projects, increasing their efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity for greater value of the Federal investment in channel maintenance Corps-wide.
3. I have directed ERDC and HQUSACE, Operations to establish operations through the Mobile District to implement SI Corps-wide. The SI website, <http://si.wes.army.mil>, contains the necessary background information supporting implementation. Beginning immediately, all hopper and scow type dredging contracts are required to incorporate SI into their monitoring plan and to budget 0.875 percent of the contract cost to cover SI. These funds are to be sent to Mobile to cover the SI program. For assistance implementing SI, contact Mr. Gary Howell, ERDC, at telephone number (601) 634-2006, or email: Gary.L.Howell@usace.army.mil, for district support.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*We will conduct
semi-annual reviews
with MSC Ops chiefs
to ensure we implement
deliberately and
effectively*


DON T. RILEY
Major General, USA
Director of Civil Works